

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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USASSSION USUN 2025

USMISSION NATO

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5562

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PFOR, TU, SU, BU

SUBJ: TURKISH-SOVIET RELATIONS; TURKISH-BULGARIAN MEETING

REF: (A) MOSCOW 9462 (B) ANKARA 5361

1. DURING A CALL ON MFA WESTERN DEPT DIRECTOR (AND
EASTERN DEPT ACTING DIRECTOR) CENGIZ SEBUKCEBE JULY 17,
EMBOFF ASKED SEBUKCEBE TO COMMENT ON THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF
THE RECENTLY SIGNED ECONOMIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN TURKEY AND
THE USSR (REFTEL). THE PRINCIPAL POINTS HE MADE IN THE ENSUING
DISCUSSION WERE:

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-- THE LATEST AGREEMENT REPRESENTS NO RPT NO CHANGE IN TURKEY'S POLICY TOWARD THE USSR. RATHER, IT IS CONSISTENT WITH AN EFFORT BEGUN ALMOST ELEVEN YEARS AGO TO EXPLORE AREAS IN WHICH TURCO-SOVIET RELATIONS COULD BE IMPROVED. THIS EFFORT, IN TURN, IS CONSISTENT WITH DETENTE.

-- HOWEVER, WHILE THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD TRY TO BE GOOD NEIGHBORS, SOVIET STRATEGIC AIMS MADE THEM "NATURAL FOES". BY CONTRAST, AND FOR THE SAME REASONS, TURKEY AND THE U.S. WERE "NATURAL ALLIES".

-- CONSEQUENTLY, TURCO-SOVIET RELATIONS COULD NOT RPT NOT DEVELOP BEYOND CERTAIN FORMS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. (SEBUKCEBE EMPHASIZED THIS POINT.)

-- TURKEY CURRENTLY HAS NO SPECIFIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH THE USSR EXCEPT FOR THE SOVIET INSISTENCE ON AN "INTERNATIONAL" APPROACH TO A CYPRIOT SETTLEMENT.

-- THERE IS NO RPT NO THOUGHT AT PRESENT OF CHANGING TURKISH POLICY TOWARD THE USSR. HOWEVER, IF THE U.S. CONGRESS DECIDES TO MAINTAIN THE ARMS EMBARGO, TURKEY WOULD BE FORCED INTO A BASIC REEXAMINATION OF ITS POLICIES.

2. RAISING THE SUBJECT OF THE DEMIREL-ZHIVKOV MEETING ON THE TURKISH-BULGARIAN BORDER JULY 20 (ANKARA 5520, SOFIA 1476), SEBUKCEBE VOLUNTEERED THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR THE MEETING HAD COME FROM THE BULGARIANS, AND THAT A MUTUAL DESIRE TO BALANCE GREEK PRIMIN CARAMANLIS' VISIT TO SOFIA HAD BEEN A FACTOR. HE NOTED THAT WHILE THERE WERE NUMEROUS BILATERAL TOPICS TO DISCUSS, HE DID NOT EXPECT THE MEETING TO BE VERY PRODUCTIVE.
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